AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing the risk [[of]] that a human patient ~~having~~ has colon cancer comprising:

a) determining a level of a nucleic acid and a level of at least one molecular marker gene in a patient sample comprising human colon cells, said nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23702;

b) comparing said level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a control level of the nucleic acid; and

c) comparing said level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) to a control level of the at least one molecular marker gene;

wherein at least a two-fold increase between the level of the nucleic acid in (a) and the control level of the nucleic acid, and a change in levels of expression between the level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) and the control level of the at least one molecular marker gene indicate that there is an increased risk that the patient has ~~an increased risk of having~~ colon cancer.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[31]] 30 wherein the at least a two-fold increase is at least a five-fold increase compared with the control level of the nucleic acid.

Claims 33 - 37 (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said determining step uses a polymerase chain reaction.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said determining step uses hybridization.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said patient sample is a sample of tissue suspected of having cancerous cells.

41. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing the risk [[of]] that a human patient ~~having~~ has breast cancer comprising:

a) determining a level of a nucleic acid and a level of at least one molecular marker gene in a patient sample comprising human breast cells, said nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23702;

b) comparing said level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a control level of the nucleic acid; and

c) comparing said level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) to a control level of the at least one molecular marker gene;

wherein at least a two-fold increase between the level of the nucleic acid in (a) and the control level of the nucleic acid, and a change in levels of expression between the level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) and the control level of the at least one molecular marker gene indicate that there is an increased risk that the patient has ~~an increased risk of having~~ breast cancer.

42. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing the risk [[of]] that a human patient ~~having~~ has prostate cancer comprising:

a) determining a level of a nucleic acid and a level of at least one molecular marker gene in a patient sample comprising human prostate cells, said nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23702;

b) comparing said level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a control level of the nucleic acid; and

c) comparing said level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) to a control level of the at least one molecular marker gene;

wherein at least a two-fold increase between the level of the nucleic acid in (a) and the control level of the nucleic acid, and a change in levels of expression between the level of the at least one molecular marker gene in (a) and the control level of the at least one molecular marker gene indicate that there is an increased risk that the patient has ~~an increased risk of having~~ prostate cancer.

43. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the at least a two-fold increase is at least a five-fold increase compared with the control level of the nucleic acid.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said determining step uses a polymerase chain reaction.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said determining step uses hybridization.

46. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said patient sample is a sample of tissue suspected of having cancerous cells.

47. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein the at least a two-fold increase is at least a five-fold increase compared with the control level of the nucleic acid.

48. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said determining step uses a polymerase chain reaction.

49. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said determining step uses hybridization.

50. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said patient sample is a sample of tissue suspected of having cancerous cells.